

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of: )  
J. Kenneth Burkus et al. ) Before the Examiner  
Serial No.: New Application ) Unassigned  
Filed: Herewith ) Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
METHODS AND INSTRUMENTATION )  
FOR VERTEBRAL INTERBODY )  
FUSION ) Atty Docket No. 4002-3501/PC361.18

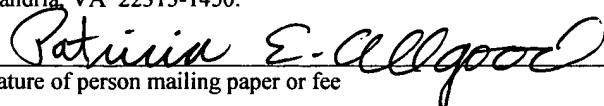
**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

As a Preliminary Amendment to the above-identified U. S. Patent Application, which is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/965,018 filed September 27, 2001, please enter the following. Please charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

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